

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Morikawa et al. (U.S. 5,267,105). Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Morikawa et al. and further in view of Ito (U.S. 3,938,185).

Claims 9-11 and 13-20 are allowed.

Drawings

It is noted that no Patent Drawing Review (Form PTO-948) was received with the outstanding Office Action. Thus, Applicant must assume that the drawings are acceptable as filed.

Claims

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1-4 and 8 to obviate the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Since claims 9-11 and 13-20 have been indicated as being allowed, no detailed discussion of the cited prior art references is believed to be necessary.

Summary

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner not be of the opinion that this case is in condition for allowance, it is requested that this amendment be entered for the purposes of appeal, since it materially reduces the issues on appeal by cancelling claims 1-4 and 8, thereby rendering moot the outstanding rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Application No. 09/929,009

Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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